

IN THE RELIGIOUS WORLD.

Thoughts and Topics Appropriate for Sunday Reading.

SELECTIONS CAREFULLY COMPILED.

The Power of Prayer—Work of Three Young Men—A Smile That Banishes Tears—Good Sermons—Religious Notes.

AS A FLOWER.

Open your heart as a flower to the light! Darkness is passing; the sun is in sight; Morning with splendor is piercing life through. Arrows of radiance and spear-tips of dew.

Glad is the world in the Holy One's birth. Lo, the new heaven and the new earth! Soon the angels and the thrones of light; Christ is the victor, and Christ is the light!

Open your heart, and His love will shine in; Cleansing and healing the heart of your sin; Who can resist Him, the Saviour, the Son? He will die before Him, and Heaven is won.

Open your heart as a flower to the light! Bloom and bear fruit in the glory of light! Be of His presence a perfume, a ray, Child of the morning, and heir of the day! Lucy Larcum.

The Power of Prayer.

In Deuteronomy iii., 23, Moses tells us that when he was told that he should not be permitted to enter the promised land, "he bowed down before the Lord, and said, 'I beseech thee, O Lord, do not let this sin be recorded against me, for I have said unto thee, I will obey all that thou shalt say. I beseech thee, O Lord, do not let this sin be recorded against me, for I have said unto thee, I will obey all that thou shalt say.'"

Phil. ii., 25, St. Paul says: "I beseech thee, O Lord, do not let this sin be recorded against me, for I have said unto thee, I will obey all that thou shalt say." The Lord said unto him, "I will obey all that thou shalt say."

The duty of prayer is certainly inculcated in Scripture, and must rest not on the number of answers we think we have received, but in the promises and character of the Almighty. Who has bid us to pray, "except an earthly parent to exercise a discretion in accepting or denying the requests of his children; can we expect less from him who knoweth the end from the beginning? We must remember that though enabled by revelation to know what God would do for us, we cannot know what He will do for us, unless we stand in some what the same relation with our Heavenly Father as that of children toward their parent, who communicates enough to entitle him to their love and confidence, but whose character and designs are very imperfectly and indistinctly understood by him. Hence it is that Scripture gives us in different places such accounts of the divine attributes and dispensations as would, if understood literally, be utterly inconsistent and contradictory for the express purpose, it would seem, of teaching us to limit our knowledge of God by the aid of the other, to correct the misapprehensions which might arise from either if considered separately, and to be aware how partial and imperfect an insight we are intended to have into the divine mysteries."—Archbishop Whately.

Three Young Men.

A few weeks ago college men generally were shocked to learn of the sad death of Frederick Brokaw, a member of the senior class of Princeton University. Hence the "Varsity nine," in a gallant attempt to save the lives of three mad servants, in the air at Elberon, N. J. One who knew him well at college thus writes of him: "Brokaw was one of the simplest, sturdiest, gentlest souls I have ever known. Let with all his simplicity and humility of character he had the pluck and endurance of a bull-dog, as all know who have seen him stop the ball through a long hot afternoon, with unbroken and bleeding hands. Brokaw was just such a chivalrous, unassuming, gentle soul as would be picked out, though he were twice the millionaire's son, to save the life of one of the least of these and who would go out of life as he had lived in it—imposed on with good nature, and bearing good or evil gently and in patience." It is years he was a member of the church of which the late Dr. Howard Crosby, of New York, was pastor.

Four years ago freshmen entering Harvard University were told by the upper classmen that the manly and noble character of a man to do was to drink, gamble, play, wire pull for the societies and cut recitations. Since then a great and thorough change has taken place, largely through the influence of one man, this is Arthur Dunnock, who was graduated with the class of '81. When he came to Harvard he resolutely set his face against the prevailing idea of the many times and threw all his influence on the side of right and temperance in all things. When, at the end of his sophomore year, he was elected captain of the varsity football team, this became the most conspicuous undergraduate at the University, the false idea of manliness received its death blow, and in its place was set up the standard of Christian manliness for the future. His classmates showed their appreciation of his firmness of character by electing him first marshal on class day, the highest honor the graduating class can pay one of its members.

One of the most successful agencies for working among the poor of the East End of London is the Tower Hamlets Mission, conducted by Mr. F. N. Carrington. Mr. Carrington is the son of a wealthy London brewer, and after leaving school entered his father's business. Soon after he became an earnest Christian, and at once began to work for others. At the suggestion of his father he opened a night school and began the difficult work of teaching East End boys. This work brought him face to face with the sin and suffering arising from the liquor traffic. He therefore informed his family that he would have nothing more to do with the business of the brewery. That a young man should calmly renounce \$400,000 rather than be connected with the liquor traffic was looked upon as madness, but Mr. Carrington was firm in his determination. He at once started the Tower Hamlets Mission, which now embraces all the means by which the kingdom of Christ may be made to reign in the Tower Hamlets, morally and spiritually, and the condition of the poor bettered. Mr. Carrington has waged incessant war against the low music halls, which are the curse of East London. On one occasion he was imprisoned all night for distributing tracts outside of one of these dens.

A Smile That Banishes Tears. "There is a face for you," said one man to another as they were crossing the City Hall Square. "Isn't it grand? You seldom see faces like that nowadays. They are getting harder and harder." "Yes," said his companion, "but one must live correctly to have such a face. A man's mode of life will show in his face, no matter how hard he may try to conceal it."

A reporter was walking behind the two men and overheard the conversation. He boarded an elevator and took the stairs, and happened to take a seat near the man whose face had attracted favorable attention.

On the opposite side sat two women and a little girl. The child suddenly and apparently without cause began to cry quietly to herself. The younger woman, who evidently was the child's mother, tried to comfort her, but to no purpose. The child continued to cry, and the big tears rolled down her cheeks until the landlady, who had been looking on, took the child in her arms and she was comforted.

The mother sat dumbfounded for a moment and searching glances at the man in front of her, who understood the situation perfectly, said reassuringly, "I will not harm her, madam; it is all right." When the train stopped at Fourteenth

street they all got out, the two women walking on ahead and the little girl, clasping the man's hand, was chatting away perfectly happy and contented. The face of the world had changed for her at the presence of that man's smile, and the tears of contentment before were entirely forgotten. The bell sounded twice, the gates closed with a bang and the train wheeled its way to the upper part of the street, leaving the reporter staring at his feet.

"Fifty-eighth street, all out!" yelled the guard. The reporter sprang to his feet and found that he had been carried a mile or more beyond his station, thinking of a child's instinct and a man's smile.—New York Tribune.

The Good Mothers.

Whether it is true or not that fiction has not created a single typical mother, and that it is impossible to find, in all its range, a great character representing that capacity, the following tribute of Dr. Talmage, in the New York Observer, simply represents the facts as they appear in real life to all of us:

"In all ages God has honored good mothers. John Wesley had a good mother, St. Bernard had a good mother, Samuel Johnson a good mother; Doddridge, a good mother; Walter Scott, a good mother; Benjamin West, a good mother. In a great audience, most of whom were Christians, I asked that all those who had been blessed of God with mothers arise, and almost the entire assembly stood up. Do you see how important it is that all motherhood be consecrated? Why did Titian, the Italian artist, when he sketched the Madonna, make it an Italian face? Why did Rubens, the German artist, in his Madonna, make it a German face? Why did Joshua Reynolds, the English artist, in his Madonna, make it an English face? Why did Murillo, the Spanish artist, in his Madonna, make it a Spanish face? I never heard but I think they took their mothers as the type of Mary, the mother of Christ. When you hear some one in sermon or oration speak in the abstract of a good, faithful, honest mother your eyes fill up with tears. What a great blessing she had when we were sick, and what a voice to soothe pain, and what a word that would fill up a room with peace, and purity, and light? And what a sad day that was when we came home and she could not greet us for her lips were forever sealed. Come back, my dear mother, and take your place, and as ten, or twenty, or fifty years ago, come and open the old Bible you used to read, and kneel in the same place where you used to pray, and look upon us as of old when you wished us a merry Christmas or a happy New Year."

Gospel Sermons.

The power of the preacher depends very largely upon his conscientious adherence to the pure Gospel of our Lord and Saviour. In these days of multiplied books and periodicals the preacher is tempted to discuss subjects of a social and even of a political nature. Man's moral and spiritual needs are the same in every age, and the Gospel is the divinely appointed means to meet this demand. Passing events may be used to enforce the great lessons of the Gospel, but by way of illustration, while souls are perishing and human hearts are weary we must give them the light and comfort afforded alone in the Gospel of Christ. Dr. Broadus, in his "History of Preaching," says that the great distinction of Spurgeon is the fact that he has so long gathered and held vast congregations, and kept the ear of the reading world, without ever forsaking the Gospel in search of variety, or weakening his doctrine to suit the tastes of the age.—Central Baptist.

Religious Notes.

The anniversaries of the Free Baptist churches are to commence in Hillsdale, Mich., October 6th.

A new steamer was recently launched in England to be used by Dr. Selwyn in his missionary work as Bishop of Melanesia.

Professor John Mitchell, of Westminster College, New Wilmington, Penn., has been elected professor of Greek in Miami University, Oxford, O.

Bishop Warren, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, has given \$6,300 as the nucleus of the endowment of a professorship of the Bible in the University of Denver.

The Rev. George T. Purves, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Pittsburgh, will occupy the chair of Theology in the seminary until a permanent professor shall have been secured.

The grandfather of Rev. C. H. Spurgeon was an English clergyman, and his father, the Rev. James A. Spurgeon, still living, occupies a pulpit in London. Charles Spurgeon has two sons, and both are preachers.

The Rev. J. D. Moffat, D. D., has declined the chair of Didactic and Polemic Theology in the Western Theological Seminary, and will remain president of Washington and Jefferson College.

The famous Cathedral of Iona is to be partially renovated by the Duke of Argyll and handed over to the Established Church of Scotland (Presbyterian) that services may be held in it occasionally during the tourist season.

The Rev. Dr. Willard has been elected acting president of Ursinus College and Dr. James T. Good, of Reading, has been assigned to professorship in the theological department, at whose head he is placed as dean.

Dr. Pentecost has decided to resume his evangelistic life in Calcutta next winter. The Calcutta Missionary Conference, at a recent meeting, expressed its great gratification at the decision and will extend him a hearty welcome.

The Rev. R. Baron, missionary of the London Missionary Society to Madagascar, reports a marked religious interest in Antananarivo, which has not been seen for many years. At a meeting intended especially for recent converts some six hundred were present, almost every people.

A comparative table of the work of the Methodist Episcopal Mission to North India shows that the growth has been very steady, but that a uniform rate of increase has been maintained. The number of communicants being, in 1883, 208; 1885, 655; 1873, 1,567; 1878, 2,526; 1883, 4,400; 1888, 7,944; 1891, 13,677.

The Moslem University at Cairo, Egypt, is said to be the largest university in the world. It has 10,000 students and 500 professors. The Koran is the only book used for grammar, law, physiology and theology, and the students study and repeat it continually.

The Diocese of Mackenzie River extending north from Athabasca to the Polar Sea, has been divided so as to give a new diocese, that of Selkirk. The veteran missionary, Bishop Bonaparte, of the Church Mission Society, is to have jurisdiction over this most inhospitable and roughest part of British North America.

Messrs. Heins and L. Farpe have been appointed architects of the proposed Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Their appointment as architects is understood not to imply that the trustees are in all respects satisfied with the design as submitted by this firm, as they do not intend to adopt it without considerable modification.

The Church Missionary Society of England continues to prosecute its work with vigor. It seems that eighty additional missionaries were sent forth by this society last year. Thirty-one were clergymen, thirty were laymen, and nineteen were laymen. Within five years the society has sent out sixty-six Cambridge graduates and thirty-seven graduates of other universities.

The first meeting of the Icelandic Synod of the Lutheran Church was held a few weeks since at Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. The

synod has twenty-four congregations and over 5,000 souls. Several new congregations in Minnesota joined this year. A mission has been started in Utah, where there are a number of children of those who have been led by deceptive Mormon missionaries.

A decision has been rendered in the long-contested equity suit between the liberal and radical factions of the United Brethren in Christ, arising out of the adoption of a new constitution at the general conference in 1883. Judge Stewart gives his decision in favor of the liberal party, affirming that their course is legal, and that they have a right to hold the property. There will be an appeal to the supreme court.

A novel plan for extinguishing a church debt has been hit upon in Melbourne, Australia. The church committee or vestry, as themselves, and each man insures his life for the amount that falls to his share. The policies are transferred to the church and the annual payments on them are made out of the collections. Then, of course, as the members of the committee "drop off" the sum insured on them is reduced, and later, when the only survivor dies, the last instalment of the church debt is paid.

The Christian Intelligencer has a good word to say for the Jews in this country, commending their liberal and wisdom with which they manage their institutions for the relief of sickness, suffering, poverty and ignorance. It says: "Their hospitals and industrial schools are among the best in the country, and within a few years they have been carrying out the best of the modern school and methods for the benefit of the large body of Jews which has been coming to the republic from Poland and Russia. In New York, in Philadelphia and other cities they have sought and found employment for these immigrants, and in the process have maintained day and night schools for adults and children, in which instruction in English and elementary branches of knowledge has been given. But what this paragraph is especially intended to notice is that a prime motive in all these efforts has been to fit the immigrant Jews for an intelligent and proper discharge of their duties as citizens. To attain this, instruction is given in various forms in the principles of our free government as founded in a manner in which the government is organized, and in what is essential to its perpetuation."

In Moscow a conference of missionaries was recently held for the purpose of discussing ways and means of bringing into the fold of the Orthodox Church the hundreds of thousands of Dissenters in the Empire, and especially the Stundists, or Bible Christians, who in recent years have increased in a remarkable manner. It is noticed in the spirit of the Russian Church, and a testimonium perpetuus of a most lamentable character for the spiritual weakness of that communion, that the result of the deliberation was an appeal to the laity to force of the State to suppress these heretics, whom the arguments and appeals of the ecclesiastics will not convert or convert. The methods and manners employed in the suppression of Protestantism in various forms in the principles of our free government as founded in a manner in which the government is organized, and in what is essential to its perpetuation."

INSURANCE STATEMENT.

ANNUAL STATEMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING THE 31ST DAY OF DECEMBER, 1890, of the actual condition of the HOME FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, organized for the purpose of insuring property, and of the Auditor of Public Accounts for the Commonwealth of Virginia, pursuant to sections 1280 and 1281, Code 1887, regulating the Reports of Insurance Companies.

Name of the company in full—HOME FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Home or principal office of said company—119 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y.

President—DANIEL A. HEALD.

Vice-Presidents—JOHN H. WASHINGTON and EDWARD G. SNOW, JR.

Secretary—WILLIAM L. BOWEN and THOMAS L. GREENE.

Organized and incorporated—APRIL, 1883.

Commenced business—APRIL, 1883.

Name of General Agent in Virginia—L. L. ALFORD.

I. CAPITAL.

The amount of subscribed capital stock of said corporation \$3,000,000 00

The amount of said capital stock paid up in cash \$3,000,000 00

II. ASSETS.

The assets of said company, and a detailed statement of how and in what the same are invested.

Value of real estate owned by the company, less the amount of incumbrances thereon. 1,375,064 03

Loans on bond and mortgage (duly recorded and paid for first liens on the fee simple). 665,130 00

Interest due on said bond and mortgage loans, \$1,194.35; interest accrued thereon. 15,419 22

Value of lands mortgaged, exclusive of buildings and perishable improvements. 11,161,592

Value of buildings mortgaged (insured for \$433,725 as collateral). 654,045

Total value of said mortgaged premises. 11,815,637

Account of stocks, bonds, and Treasury notes of the United States and of this State, and of all other stocks and bonds owned absolutely by the company:

United States 5 per cent. currency bonds. 790,000 00

District of Columbia 4-5 bonds of 1891. 1,100,000 00

Mississippi 4 per cent. bonds. 20,000 00

State of Georgia 3-4 per cent. registered bonds. 20,000 00

New York City 3 per cent. bonds. 20,000 00

City of Richmond, Va., 5 per cent. bonds. 50,000 00

Topeka City, Kas., Internal Improvement 6 per cent. bonds. 117,197 20

St. Louis 4 per cent. bonds. 23,400 00

Nebraska City, Neb., Internal Improvement 7 per cent. bonds. 25,250 00

Kansas City, Kas., Improvement 7 per cent. bonds. 12,500 00

City of Greely, Col., 6 per cent. bonds. 25,250 00

New York, Lake Erie and Western Railroad Company, re-organized first lien 6 per cent. bonds. 200,000 00

New York, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad Company, first mortgage 4 per cent. bonds. 112,000 00

New York and Harlem Railroad, first mortgage 7 per cent. registered bonds (1900). 100,000 00

Valley Railroad Company of Ohio consolidated mortgage 6 per cent. bonds (1900). 100,000 00

Ohio and West Virginia Railway Company, first mortgage 6 per cent. bonds (1914). 100,000 00

Peoria, Decatur and Springfield Railroad, first mortgage 6 per cent. bonds (Evansville Division) (1920). 100,000 00

Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Indianapolis Railroad, first consolidated mortgage 7 per cent. bonds (1914). 100,000 00

Western Union and Texas Railway Company, first mortgage 6 per cent. bonds (1920). 100,000 00

West Shore railway, first mortgage guaranteed 4 per cent. bonds registered. 100,000 00

Albany and Chesapeake Canal Company, first mortgage 7 per cent. bonds (1920). 100,000 00

Toledo, Ann Arbor and Detroit Railway Company, first mortgage 6 per cent. bonds (1921). 100,000 00

Jeffersonville, Madison and Indianapolis Railroad Company, first mortgage 7 per cent. bonds (S. F.) (1906). 100,000 00

Toledo, Ann Arbor and Detroit Railway Company, first mortgage guaranteed 6 per cent. bonds (1917). 100,000 00

Dunkirk, Warren and Pittsburgh Railway Company, first mortgage guaranteed 7 per cent. bonds (1900). 75,000 00

Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railroad, consolidated mortgage 6 per cent. bonds (1930). 50,000 00

Alabama Central Railroad, first mortgage 5 per cent. bonds. 50,000 00

Louisville, St. Louis and Western Railway Company, first mortgage 6 per cent. bonds (1917). 50,000 00

New York Central and Hudson River Railroad, first mortgage 7 per cent. bonds (1931). 50,000 00

Savannah and Western Railroad, first consolidated mortgage guaranteed 5 per cent. bonds (1920). 50,000 00

Virginia Midland Railway Company, general mortgage 5 per cent. bonds (1920). 50,000 00

Iowa Central Railway Company, fifty-year gold 5 per cent. bonds (1931). 25,000 00

Des Moines Water Works Company of Iowa, first consolidated mortgage 6 per cent. bonds. 25,000 00

Denver Water Company, first mortgage 6 per cent. bonds. 25,000 00

Streator, Ill., Aqueduct Company, first mortgage 5 per cent. bonds. 10,000 00

100 Shares of Western Railway Company preferred stock, \$100 each. 100,000 00

100 Shares Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railway Company preferred stock, \$100 each. 100,000 00

100 Shares New York Central and Hudson River Railroad stock, \$100 each. 100,000 00

50 Shares Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway Company stock, \$100 each. 50,000 00

40 Shares Iowa Central Railway Company preferred stock, \$100 each. 40,000 00

40 Shares National Broadway Bank, \$25 each. 10,000 00

40 Shares American National Bank of New York, \$100 each. 40,000 00

30 Shares Mercantile National Bank of New York, \$100 each. 30,000 00

30 Shares Bank of America, New York, \$100 each. 30,000 00

30 Shares National Bank of New York, \$100 each. 30,000 00

20 Shares Manhattan National Bank, New York, \$50 each. 10,000 00

20 Shares Merchants' Exchange National Bank of New York, \$50 each. 10,000 00

20 Shares Nassau Bank, \$50 each. 10,000 00

20 Shares Chatham National Bank of New York, \$50 each. 10,000 00

20 Shares National Bankers' and Drovers' Bank of New York, \$50 each. 10,000 00

100 Shares Hanover National Bank of New York, \$100 each. 10,000 00

100 Shares National Bank of the Republic, \$100 each. 10,000 00

privied of their political rights, and the paper prophesies that these measures will prove an absolute failure, and appeals to history in justification of its protest.

The Congressional year-book for 1891 shows some interesting facts. The total number of church members is 508,392, besides 69,601 who are put down as absent. Massachusetts naturally leads off with 103,953, more than 20 per cent of the whole. Next comes Connecticut, 59,312; Michigan, 43,226; Illinois, 34,067; Ohio, 31,821; Wisconsin, 23,621; Iowa, 23,592. Kansas shows a total of 12,043. California, 11,856; Nebraska, 8,844, and Washington, 2,661. There are 4,919 ministers, of whom 1,657 are without charges, leaving only 3,262 regular pastors in charge of the 4,919 churches. Some of these, however, have the services of licentiate, and only 986 are reported as not supplied. Here Maine leads the list with 83; then comes Massachusetts, 73; New York and Ohio, each with 66; Iowa, 66; Michigan, 66; Wisconsin, 53. The Sunday schools, including those not connected with the churches, show 645,976 members. The additions to the church were 47,872, of whom 27,592 were by confession; 15,325 of them coming from the Sunday schools. The \$4,628 foreign mission contributions for 1890-1891, of which Massachusetts gave \$675,286; Connecticut, \$360,740; Illinois, \$320,180; New York, \$210,280; Minnesota, \$144,580. The home expenses of 4,094 churches were \$6,091,222 following much the same proportion as the contributions. Home missions lead with \$465,042, or, if we include the American Missionary Association (\$103,795), and the New West Commission, (\$43,314), \$673,151. Foreign missions have \$949,738, church education, \$239,412; education, \$163,518; Sunday schools, \$50,733; ministerial aid, \$19,178; and other causes, \$72,446. A comparison with the statistics of 1889 shows an increase in membership of 14,377; in churches, 128; in additions to membership have fallen off by 2,077, and the number of ministers is less by 21. Sunday schools show a growth of about 35,699 (a part due to better reports). Contributions have fallen off, the loss being \$137,876, while home expenses have increased by \$144,261. The heaviest loss was in education, \$14,628; foreign mission contributions, \$186,000; missions gained \$3,875; A. M. A., \$16,707, and church building, \$16,673.

PROPOSALS.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA. OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC PRINTING. RICHMOND, VA., September 2, 1891.

SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED AT this office until WEDNESDAY, September 10, 1891, at 12 o'clock M., for the PRINTING, BINDING, RULING, &c., for the State of Virginia for one year from October 1, 1891. Printed schedules showing in detail the classification and the number of orders for publication, on which all the bids will be required to be made.

Contractors will be required to enter into bond, with security to be approved by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, for the prompt and faithful execution of their contracts. The Superintendent reserves the right to place the contracts in such manner as will insure the prompt and accurate execution of the work, and to reject any bid or bids, and the work will be awarded in such lots or portions as the Superintendent may deem proper.

J. H. O'BANNON, Supt. Superintendent of Public Printing.

FILE CURS.

JAPANESE FILE CURS—A GUARANTEED CURE FOR PILES of whatever kind or degree—External, Internal, Blind or Bleeding, Itching, Chronic, Recent or Hereditary. \$1 a box. Sent by mail, prepaid, on receipt of price. We guarantee to cure any case of Piles. Guaranteed and sold only by E. P. REEVES & CO., Drugists and Seedsmen, 602 West Main Street, Richmond, Va.

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